(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government directed UGC to use a Diversity Index to stop the level of social adversity on all University campuses;

(c) if so, what is the status of using the Diversity Index to help Muslims get higher education; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to monitor the UGC to increase number of Muslims in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Government have advised the University Grants Commission (UGC) to assess the feasibility of working out a diversity index for evolving a system of grants based on such an index. Subject to the feasibility thereof, the UGC is competent, under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, to monitor the implementation.

Shortage of primary school teachers

1383. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of teachers at primary schools in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Against an ideal Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:40, the PTR for government primary schools in 2004-05 was 1:41 in the country. The Government of India has sanctioned 10.12 lakh teacher posts under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan up to 2006-07.